

CONFIDENTIALFLD
666CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT
TOPIC Soviet Maneuvers in the OHRDRUF Area 25X1EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 23 November 1949REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY1 and 2 October 1949

- 25X1 1. a. Large-scale maneuvers were started in the area west of GOTHA (M 51/J 06) on 1 October 1949. A tank attack of about 300 armored vehicles (T34 tanks, JS tanks and heavy self-propelled guns) was observed on the same day. The attack was launched from the ~~Wrossenbehringer~~ (M 52/H 97) - HUETSCHERODA (M 52/H 97) - WOLFSBEHRINGEN (M 52/H 97) area and pressed forward across the autobahn toward the area of GOSPITERODA (M 51/J 05) - ENLEBEN (M 51/J 05) - OHRDRUF (M 51/J 15) - NEUDLETENDORF (M 51/J 26).

- 25X1 b. Firing practice by about ten heavy antiaircraft battalions emplaced in the PETRIRODA (M 51/J 05) - SCHWABHAUSEN (M 51/J 15) area was observed on 2 October 1949. Twenty-seven other 20 mm antiaircraft guns were counted in SCHWABHAUSEN. All antiaircraft guns concentrated fire at formations of twelve twin-engine and twenty single-engine aircraft which flew over that area at about 3 p.m. The white clouds of bursts were observed behind the approaching formations at exactly the same altitude.

c. About 130 guns, most of them of 132 mm caliber, were parked in a small woods between WIPPENRODA (M 51/J 05) and GEORGENTHAL (M 51/J 05). Powerful caterpillar tractors and prime movers were observed with the guns.

- 25X1 d. Bulletproof bunkers had been constructed between WIPPENRODA and HOHENKIRCHEN (M 51/J 05) and along the HOHENKIRCHEN - SCHWABHAUSEN road. Three overhead wires ran from the bunkers toward LEINA (M 51/J 05) and the Boxberg.

13 and 14 October 1949

2. a. Large-scale continuous maneuvers of Soviet tank, artillery, infantry and engineer units were conducted at the

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OHDRUF troop training grounds up to 13 October 1949. All approach roads were blocked to traffic. Even trains scheduled to run on lines leading through the troop training grounds had to be canceled.

b. The maneuvers came to a sudden end on 13 October 1949, and the troops moved back to camps. Seventy-eight T34 tanks were seen parked in one wood-camp. No heavy weapons were subsequently seen at the training grounds but troops were seen receiving basic infantry training (intensive) near the camps.

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Comment:

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The report [] confirms a previous assumption that the Eight Gds Army held its final large-scale maneuvers in the OHDRUF area in early October 1949. The observations []

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[] indicate that the component units of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, having trained in the Kindel Area moved (by the way of an attack) to the OHDRUF troop training grounds where subsequent joint maneuvers with the component units of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps were conducted under warlike conditions. The maneuvers are believed to have ended 13 October 1949. The troops are assumed to have started leaving for the winter posts in mid-October 1949.

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